

# Kent & Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony 2022 Press Release

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**RECORD NUMBERS OF APPRENTICES CELEBRATED AT THE ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
2022 GRADUATION CEREMONY:**



Photo: Graduation Attire

The Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony returned as a face-to-face celebration in the company of over 500 friends and family, employers, training providers and other guests, at the prestigious setting of Rochester Cathedral on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022, setting new records for the event first held as an inaugural ceremony in 2019.

The fully gowned formal ceremony highlighted the value and importance of apprentice achievements across multiple industry sectors, from Level 2 to Level 7 degree apprenticeships, recognising all in equal manner. The ceremony's gowning costs and portrait photo option was free to all graduates ensuring inclusivity, thanks to a wide range of supporters and sponsoring organisations.

A record 153 apprentices (a 70% increase on 2019's inaugural event) were celebrated on the day. Furthermore, another record was set as 25 training providers and over 80 employers were engaged through the graduation ceremony.

This year the ceremony had an added dynamic as for the first time a focused cohort of 45 NHS graduates across a range of support and clinical skills were recognised, which added an extra dimension to the ceremony particularly recognising the role and contribution made by many NHS apprentices during the covid 19 pandemic.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce supported the event for the first time in its four-year history as host organisation for a pre-ceremony VIP and business reception, which saw approximately 70 stakeholders, business and training provider representatives enjoy pre-event speeches and a networking opportunity.

The ceremony itself was compered by Nicola Everett of KMFM and KMTV, who ensured the four graduate sets were effectively punctuated with key speakers including: Rochester and Strood MP Kelly Tolhurst Minister of State in the Department for Education, Dr Anna Morrison CBE Director of Amazing Apprenticeships, Dr Tanya Lawes of The Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education and Paul Bentley CEO of the Kent & Medway NHS.

**Dr Anna Morrison CBE, Director of Amazing Apprenticeships;** said, “The graduation was absolutely fantastic. Meeting the apprentices, hearing their inspirational stories and joining them in celebrating their significant achievements was just wonderful. I hope many of them will go on to share their stories to inspire others as they really are fantastic role models for the Kent and Medway area.”

**Tudor Price, Deputy CEO of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce;** said, “The Chamber is delighted to have supported the Graduation Ceremony for the first time in 2022 and to have enabled and hosted this year's VIP and business pre-ceremony reception. The ceremony dovetails well with the Chamber's work in supporting the county's businesses. The Chamber recognises the key roles apprentices play in so many of our employer organisations and how much they have and continue to contribute to business success and continuity. Our on-going work on the Local Skills Improvement Plan is consolidating this understanding across so many industry sectors. The Chamber congratulates all the apprentice graduates and is confident that they should be proud of their achievements and their contribution to the county's economy.”

**Mark Hill, project manager for the Graduation Ceremony;** said, “All of us in the organising partnership committee are overwhelmed by the response to the return of the graduation ceremony at the cathedral. With a number of records broken and the ceremony's unrivalled inclusivity, we are already looking forward to 2023. The date will be around the same time of the year. We hope to firmly establish the ceremony in the county's annual calendar. Given the amazing response and support given by our many supporters and sponsors, as well as employers and training providers before the ceremony, we are now confident as a result of its success and evident delightful impact on the graduating apprentices and their friends and family particularly, that we will be looking to deliver an even bigger ceremony in 2023.”

**ENDS.**

Event information including the ceremony programme and links to photo galleries is at [www.appgradkandm.org](http://www.appgradkandm.org)



The event was also recorded to ensure as many people could watch the ceremony at their convenience. The video content is being produced by Media Partner, Iliffe Media and will be available by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

For further information please contact: Mark Hill via [info@appgradkandm.org](mailto:info@appgradkandm.org)



## The Graduation Ceremony Team & Supporting Organisations

The partners who are organising this event are: CXK; Careers and Enterprise Company; Canterbury Christ Church University; The Education People; Federation of Small Businesses; Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO); Kent Further Education (KFE); Medway Council; NHS Kent & Medway; Rule 5 Solutions and Wire Belt Company Ltd.

## 2023 Call for Supporting Funders and Sponsors

The organisers are open to additional sponsors for 2023. To find out how to become a sponsoring organisation and to view the range of sponsor packages available please visit the sponsors page of the Kent & Medway Apprentice Graduation [here](#) or see the [sponsor pack](#).

For more information visit the website at:

[www.appgradkandm.org](http://www.appgradkandm.org) Twitter: @AppGradKandM

Instagram: AppGradKandM or via: [info@appgradkandm.org](mailto:info@appgradkandm.org) – Mark Hill, [Rule 5 Solutions](#)

Use the hashtag: #AppGradKandM

## Who can be registered for 2023?

Any apprentice who has completed their qualification, at any level or discipline, between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 and is either Kent and Medway based or has a Kent and Medway based provider can be nominated. Registration will open in February 2023 and close 1st September 2023.

## Who can register apprentices?

Applicants can be registered by their employer, apprenticeship provider or can self-register. Applications will be verified and places are available on a first come, first served basis. When nominations are made it's essential that all parties involved, apprentice, employer and provider are informed.

## Sponsors & Supporters 2022

### K&M Apprentice Graduation Ceremony Partners & Sponsors 2022

